

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in this application. Claim 6 has been amended. Claims 8-18 have previously been withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice.

1. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1-5, drawn to an electrolyte sheet, classified in class 429, subclass 30;
- Group II. Claims 6-7, drawn to a solid oxide electrode/electrolyte assembly, classified in class 429, subclass 40;
- Group III. Claims 8-14, drawn to a device for separating green sheet from green sheet carrier, classified in class 493, subclass 337; and
- Group IV. Claims 15-18 drawn to method for separating a green electrolyte sheet from its carrier, classified in class 493, subclass 339.

The Examiner asserted that the inventions of Groups I and II may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because Inventions II and I are related as combination and subcombination. The Office Action states "In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the assembly does not require the particulars of the electrolyte sheet. The subcombination has separate utility such as an electrolyte in an electrolytic cell." The Office Action also states that "Inventions III and I are related as apparatus and product made. In this case the electrolyte can be made by another apparatus" and that "Inventions IV and I are related as process of making and product made. In the instant case the product can be made by another process, such as the method in claim 16".

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute claims 1-5, without traverse. Applicants amended claim 6 to depend from claim 1. Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and thus also incorporates the language of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 6-7 should be examined together. As a formality,

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contingent upon the Examiner's decision not to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby withdraw claims 8-18, without prejudice.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Svetlana Z. Short at (607)974-0412.

Date: 11-17-06

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37

C.F.R. § 1.8: I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

11-17-06



Svetlana Z. Short